

House Resolution No. 2722

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives hold in high esteem those Show-Me State religious institutions that admirably improve the quality of life in local communities and neighborhoods through the excellence of their spiritual services; and

Whereas, Saint Stephen Catholic Church in the village of Indian Creek in Monroe County, Missouri, was established in 1833 under the direction of Bishop Joseph Rosati, C.M., as head of the Saint Louis Diocese, which was the third diocese to be formed in the United States; and

Whereas, the Most Reverend Peter Paul Lefevere was assigned to Saint Stephen Catholic Church in order to minister to the needs of Irish, English, and German settlers who came to the area via Maryland and Kentucky; and

Whereas, Saint Stephen Catholic Church was rebuilt after being destroyed by the tornado of March 10, 1878, and by two separate fires, each time being improved by parishioners of deep faith who made extreme personal sacrifices in order to do so; and

Whereas, Saint Stephen Catholic Church is now led by the Reverend Donald Antweiler and is the oldest existing parish in the present-day Diocese of Jefferson City, which is led by Bishop John R. Gaydos; and

Whereas, members and visitors to Saint Stephen Catholic Church lovingly refer to its hometown as "Swinkey" in honor of Augustus Schwenke, who was the first owner of a mercantile store in Indian Creek; and

Whereas, it is fitting and proper that the Missouri House of Representatives should pause in its constitutionally-mandated legislative duties in order to acknowledge milestone events in the histories of such outstanding Missouri churches as Saint Stephen Catholic Church:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the history, goals, and accomplishments associated with Saint Stephen Catholic Church and to convey to all of those involved this legislative body's most heartfelt best wishes as they celebrate the One Hundred Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the founding of their religious institution; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in honor of Saint Stephen Catholic Church of Indian Creek, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Paul Quinn
District No. 9

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 2722, adopted May 6, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker